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All of which means that to be a safe guide a man must actually have done something in the particular field which he undertakes to summarize. The book is well made and attractive in appearance.

E. F. S.

A New Elementary Text-Book. — A clear indication of the broadened scope of botanical instruction is afforded by the discarding of class books which only a decade or two ago were sufficient for the purposes of the ordinary teacher. The books that have replaced them are not only very different from their predecessors but from one another. Some are questionably the equals in any respect of those that are dropping out; others, though they have the merit of giving a broadened view of the subject, overshoot the classes they are intended for; still others are as one-sided on a new phase of the science as the older ones were on another.

As long as there is individuality in teachers, universal satisfaction is hardly to be expected from any text-book, and as questions of temperance and cruelty have not yet intruded themselves into the botany of secondary schools, it is probable that individuality in its teachers may long resist the tendency to mechanical uniformity to which many forces contribute with considerable persistency. With any book, however much the teacher may desire to avoid giving the impression that all desirable knowledge is contained between its covers, it is difficult to prevent many pupils from at least tacitly holding this opinion, and good as many of the recent books are, it is to be feared that their use is causing some of the wholesome everyday knowledge of one's dooryard plants of a generation ago to be replaced by a broader and doubtless more scientific, but unfortunately less practically tangible knowledge of vegetation in the abstract.

To meet the undoubted need of a more comprehensive work than Dr. Gray's *Lessons* without losing the advantage of its rational point of view, excellent spirit, and good handling, Mr. Leavitt, at the request of the botanical department of Harvard University, has based on it a little book¹ which appears admirably adapted to the class room, and which, by the introduction of a series of well-devised and simple exercises, makes possible that most desirable of evolutions, — the conversion of the recitation room into a laboratory.

T.

¹ Leavitt, R. G. *Outlines of Botany for the High School Laboratory and Classroom*. Based on Gray's *Lessons in Botany*. American Book Company. 272 pp., 383 figs.